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21 MAR 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: FY 1973 Financial Program, FY 1974 Budget,
and FY 1975 through FY 1978 Planning

REFERENCE: Draft NRO Memo for D/CIA/RP dated
16 March 1972: Subject: Same as above,
unsigned

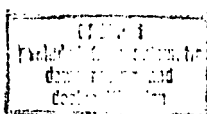
1. As you recall, in August 1971 one of our U-2R aircraft at Edwards AFB was transferred ("loaned") to the USAF. This left us with a total of two at [] and two at Edwards. Significantly, there was no reduction in our training requirement nor a change in our contingency commitment since the transferred aircraft could ostensibly be recovered on short notice in case of a deployment.

2. To plan for a deployment in which we are to meet a minimum response time, we should, ideally, have at least two operationally ready (OR) aircraft available at all times. To meet commitments such as [] in which two aircraft must deploy on short notice, a minimum of three aircraft are necessary. Possession of only two aircraft has precluded us from maintaining such a capability. Likewise, a minimal training level for aircrews has generally been maintained since last August.

3. In order to maintain a maximum capability within the limitations of our resources, it has been necessary to retain the maintenance crew previously assigned to the transferred aircraft. Even with the extra crew, weekend and overtime work has been required. Despite this, due to maintenance and inspection requirements since the aircraft was transferred, we have had 54 days during which only one aircraft was OR and on 5 days neither aircraft was OR.

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4. I believe we should continue to budget for this aircraft in CIA. This would allow us to at least be able to plan to pull the third aircraft back to the fleet, should it be necessary on a future deployment.

WENDELL L. BEVAN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

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SAS/O/OSA: [REDACTED]

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